

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14

INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 EB-11

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----- 101190

R 121534Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6363

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION UEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS COTONOU 1114

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJ: COTONOU SAHELIAN RELIEF MEETING

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OSRO SPONSORED MEETING DISCUSS SAHELIAN LOGISTIC PROBLEMS FOR NIGER, UPPER VOLTA, AND CHAD HELD COTONOU JULY 8-9. DELEGATES CONVERGING FROM THREE CONTINENTS INCLUDED REPS OF DONORS, RECIPIENTS, FORWARDING AGENTS, OSRO, AND TRANSITING COUNTRIES. SUMMARY OF MOST IMPORTANT POINTS IN OFFICIAL CONCLUSIONS OF MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I. GENERAL ISSUES

A. "SINCE EXISTING RAIL NETWORKS UNABLE MOVE TONNAGES INVOLVED WITHIN REASONABLE TIME, ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES HAVE TO BE MOVED DIRECTLY BY ROAD FROM PORTS TO POINTS OF DELIVERY IN RECEIVING COUNTRIES IN SPITE OF HIGHER COSTS"...

B. DAMAGED FOODSTUFFS SHOULD BE SEGREGATED AND NOT FORWARDED TO RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

C. PORT COMMITTEES SHOULD BE FORMED AT ABIDJAN, APAPA AND COTONOU. (NOTE: ABIDJAN AND APPA ALREADY HAVE SUCH COMMITTEES.)

D. FUTURE SHIPMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE 5 PERCENT EMPTY BAGS.

E. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRUCKS AND FUNDS FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION INDICATED BY ALL RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

F. DELEGATES "UNANIMOUSLY AGREED" THAT FOOD AID WOULD CONTINUE TO BE NEEDED BEYOND LIFE OF CURRENT RELIEF PROGRAM. FLOW OF SUPPLIES SHOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED LATER IN YEAR, AND HOPE EXPRESSED THAT DONORS WILL MAKE TIMELY CONTRIBUTION TO RELIEF OPERATIONS.

G. "US DEL" PROPOSED EMERGENCY FUNDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO OSRO TRUST FUND TO MEET SUDDEN EMERGENCIES. OTHER DONORS PROMISED EXAMINE PROPOSAL.

H. NEED FOR "EXTRA MEASURES" RECOGNIZED TO PROPERLY PROTECT FOOD NOW UNDER TARPAULINS. THIS WILL ALSO RELEASE RAILWAY WAGONS CURRENTLY BLOCKED AT RAILHEADS. ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED WHERE NEEDED.

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I. DONORS UNDERTOOK TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN CONTRACTS INCLUDING PROVISION ALLOW UNLOADING AT ALTERNATE PORTS.

J. SPECIAL STUDY PACKAGING NECESSARY.

K. POOLING OF TRANSITAIRES' RESOURCES TO BE EXAMINED BY DONORS AND PORT COMMITTEES.

L. DONORS TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATIONS OF LATE PAYMENTS.

M. CHAIRMAN, ON BEHALF OF CILSS, URGED ABSOLUTE PRIORITY BE GIVEN FOOD SHIPMENTS OVER NEXT SIX WEEKS. ALSO ASKED THAT ALL AVAILABLE TRANSPORT BE USED IRRESPECTIVE OF "INTER-COUNTRY QUOTA" ARRANGEMENTS."

II. INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

A. NIGER

1. COTONOU

A. BELGIAN DEL AGREED SHIP 1200 MT MAIZE FROM COTONOU BY TRUCK VIA NIGERIA IF NIGER GOVERNMENT AGREED.

B. EEC DEL AGGRED CONSIDER DIVERSION OR SHIPPING BY TRUCK OF 3343 MT MAIZE.

C. ODAMAP AGREED TO MAKE ALL EFFORT PROVIDE COVERED STORAGE FOR UNDAMAGED GRAIN AFTER SPOILED GRAIN SEGREGATED AND FUTURE SHIPMENTS ARRIVE.

2. APAPA:

A. ROAD EVACUATION NOW 1000 MT PER DAY MINIMUM. RAIL MAILY USED FOR GROUNDNUT SEED. NIGER DEL AGREED PRIORITY MAY NOW CHANGE.

B. PORT CAN HANDLE DIVERSIONS FROM COTONOU

3. PORT HARCOURT:

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A. LARGE STOCKS OF 9892 MT HAVE ACCUMULATED DUE UNILATERAL DIVERSIONS BY DONORS.

B. RAIL EVACUATIONS NOW NIL. CHAIRMAN NIGERIAN ACTION COMMITTEE AGREED TO ENDEAVOR EXPEDITE MOVEMENT BY RAIL.

C. OSRO AND DONORS TO INVESTIGATE TRUCK MOVEMENT.

D. TEMPORARY COVERED STORAGE MAY BE NEEDED AT PORT HARCOURT.

B. CHAD

1. MAIDUGURI:

A. EVACUATION HAMPERED BY NON-RETURN WAGONS FROM MAIDUGURI.

B. USAID AGREED FIND COVERED STORAGE FOR THEIR SUPPLIES.

C. FAC WILL "EXAMINE POSITION" ITS SUPPLIES.

D. OSRO PREPARED PAY FOR STORAGE TO ALLOW WAGONS TO BE UNLOADED
AND RETURNED PORT HARCOURT.

E. WEEKLY EVACUATION PRESENTLY AT 1000 MT MUST BE INCREASED
TO 4000 MT

F. CHAD HAS AGREED TO EVACUATION 12,000 MT BY NIGERIAL TRUCKS.
HOWEVER, RAINS INHIBITING MOVEMENT OF TRUCKS ON ROADS.

G. CHAD GOVERNMENT AGREED "TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY UNBLOCK
MAIDUGURI."

2. INTERNAL TRANSPORT:

A. TWO RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT TO BE USED CARRY SUPPLIES FROM PORT
TO MDJAMENA.

C. UPPER VOLTA

1. ABIDJAN:

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A. DIVERSION TO TEMA/TAKORADI PROPOSED FOR PORTION OF SHIPMENTS
DESTINED FOR UPPER VOLTA.

2. INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION:

A. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL 4-WHEEL DRIVE TRUCKS EMPHASIZED BY VOLTAN
DEL. DONORS ASKED CONSIDER UPPER VOLTAN PLAN URGENTLY.

EMBASSY FORWARDING ITS COMMENTS ON MEETING SEPTTEL.
MCNCAMARA

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